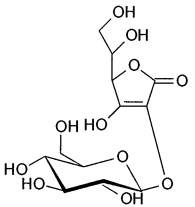
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

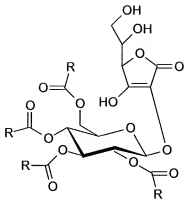
Claim 1. (Previously Presented): Isolated and/or purified 2-O-(β-D-Glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid represented by the following formula (1):



or a biologically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

Claims 2-7. (Cancelled).

Claim 8. (Original): 2-O-(Tetra-O-acyl-β-D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid represented by the following formula (2):



wherein each R in the formula independently represents a C_{1-5} alkyl group.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented): The compound of claim 8, wherein all of the R groups of formula (2) are methyl.

Claim 10-12. (Cancelled).

Claim 13. (Currently Amended): A method of producing 2-O-(β-D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid comprising reacting ascorbic acid and a β-D-glucosyl compound in the presence of a ~~The method of claim 11, wherein the~~ β-D-glucosyltransferase that is a cellulase.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented): A provitamin C composition comprising 2-O-(β-D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid in the amount of 0.1 to 30 weight percent, and a pharmaceutically, cosmetically, or dietarily acceptable component.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented): A provitamin C composition comprising 2-O-(β-D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid and 6-O-(β-D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid.

Claims 16-20. (Cancelled).

Claim 21. (Previously Presented): A pharmaceutical composition comprising the 2-O-(β-D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid or a biologically acceptable salt or ester thereof of claim 1,

wherein said 2-O-(β-D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid or biologically acceptable salt or ester thereof is present in the amount of 0.1 to 30 weight percent, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claims 22-25. (Cancelled).

Claim 26. (Previously Presented): A cosmetic composition comprising the 2-O-(β-D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid or a biologically acceptable salt or ester thereof of claim 1, and a cosmetically acceptable carrier.

Claim 27. (Cancelled).

Claim 28. (Currently Amended): A method of producing 2-O-(β-D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid comprising reacting ascorbic acid and a β-D-glucosyl compound in the presence of a β-D-glucosyltransferase~~The method of claim 13~~, wherein the β-D-glucosyl compound is cellobiose.

Claim 29. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 13, wherein the cellulase is a cellulase from *Trichoderma.*

Claim 30. (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition of claim 26, wherein said 2-O-(β-D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid or biologically acceptable salt or ester thereof is present in the amount of 0.1 to 30 weight percent.